

# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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## **FEDERAL PRISON INMATE SENTENCED FOR WEAPONS OFFENSE**

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that **JOSEPH SANDERS**, an inmate at the maximum security United States Penitentiary at Marion, Illinois, was sentenced on March 15 in United States District Court in Benton to a term of 60 months (5 years) imprisonment for possessing a weapon in the prison. **SANDERS** was found guilty of that offense following a bench trial conducted on July 18, 2005.

The 60 month sentence was the maximum sentence the court could impose and was imposed consecutively to the 300 month sentence for being an Armed Career Criminal in Possession of a Firearm which **SANDERS** was already at the time he committed the offense. In addition to the term of imprisonment, **SANDERS** was also sentenced to a term of 3 years of supervised release to follow his incarceration and was ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment.

Evidence adduced at trial leading to the conviction and sentence showed that on March 24, 2004, during a routine search of his cell and person by correctional officers, **SANDERS** was found to have a homemade 3 and 1/2 inch metal knife, commonly referred to in prison as a shank, concealed in his shoe.

Investigation into the case was conducted by agents of the Carbondale office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and investigative agents of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James M. Cutchin.